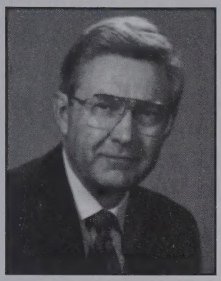
Colorado for Family Values

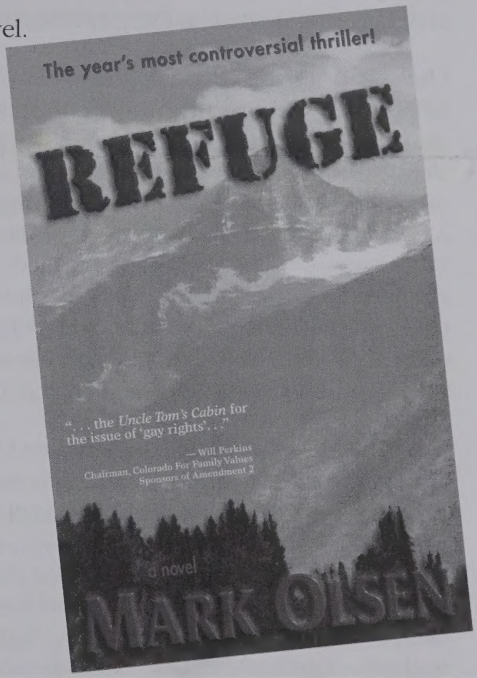


A Message from Will Perkins

Chairman of the Board, Colorado for Family Values

Before I share with you some of the serious developments on our horizon, I want to discuss one of the most unusual subjects I have ever addressed in a letter to you.

I want to talk to you about a novel.


The year's most controversial thriller!
REFUGE
". . . the Uncle Tom's Cabin for the issue of 'gay rights'. . ."
— Will Perkins
Chairman, Colorado For Family Values
Sponsors of Amendment 2
a novel
MARK OLSEN

Yes, I know what you may be thinking. In light of all the concerns we share, the release of a novel seems insignificant. What possible difference could a novel make? Well . . . in this case, a big one.

Its title is *Refuge*, and it's unlike any book I or hundreds of advance readers have ever read. Rev. Jerry Falwell said of it, "I've never raced through a novel quite like this one. *Refuge* is more than fiction; it is a disturbing parable I pray will change America." The trade magazine for religious bookstores, *Christian Retailing*, called it, "As chilling and prophetic in places as George Orwell . . ." and ". . . a compelling story." The American Family Association of Colorado has called it ". . . a docu-novel that will change your life."

Why do I recommend it? Because I believe *Refuge* could become nothing less than the *Uncle Tom's Cabin* for the "gay rights" issue. Its powerful story of an American family caught in a "politically correct" nightmare could become the tool we've needed to break through the media barricade and show the American people exactly what is at stake.

You read it first as "Colorado 1998," serialized in the pages of our CFV Report. It is now the novel "Refuge," a critically-acclaimed, highly-entertaining thriller plunging you into an America where disagreement with homosexuality is against the law. Please read this important book, then share it with others.

If you've been receiving the *CFV Report* newsletter since 1993, you'll remember *Refuge* as "Colorado 1998" — the series of fictional chapters about a future where citizens have lost their right to personally disapprove of homosexuality. You see, *Refuge* — authored by our own longtime writer Mark Olsen — springs right out of Amendment 2 and our own recent history.

Dozens of you have contacted our offices since those early chapters appeared, asking when the finished novel would be published and where you could find it. Well, the wait is at an end. *Refuge* is here.

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Why such a big deal about something as seemingly lightweight as a work of fiction? Because I happen to think a well- told story can reach more people, more powerfully and more persuasively, than a hundred editorials, press conferences or debates. Think about how incessantly homosexual activists press their cause in movies, television and books. They know the surest way to take your message to the masses is to tell it in a story.

To bring back *Uncle Tom's Cabin* — its author Harriet Beecher Stowe, a Christian lady staunchly opposed to slavery, is today credited with helping end it in America. Mrs. Stowe used the power of fiction to take America into a scene none of them ever saw: the squalor of slave life, the horror of having one's family torn apart. That one story riveted the nation's attention, and single-handedly mobilized public opinion towards an end to that cruel practice.

I believe that, with your help, *Refuge* could have a similar impact. It is the story of one Boulder family living in an America where opposition to homosexuality is illegal. A family torn apart by charges of "homophobic" child abuse — teaching their children traditional values. The father, Vern Yates, runs with his son into the mountains in search of an underground network for persecuted believers, while his wife remains at home under house arrest and their four-year old daughter is taken to a "new school" to be indoctrinated in "politically correct" attitudes.

Paranoid, you ask? Extreme? *Refuge* disproves the charge by starting each chapter with a page of chilling, fully documented quotes from real life which back up every scenario. It's been called a "docu-novel," not only because it arises from present-day facts, but because it traces how its terrible predictions might come to pass.

Now, I didn't write you all this because I fancy myself a literary critic. I have a very specific plan for this book, and its success depends on you. See, I like to think of *Refuge* as a wake-up call that does not have to come true in America — if we'll only spread this story to others.

So first, I'm asking you to order one or more copies of *Refuge* today, using the response card enclosed in this letter. Second, I'm asking you to read it. You'll be moved, frightened and entertained. Third, I'm asking you to share this book with others you'd like to reach with the truth about militant homosexuality. It could be your next door neighbor, your pastor, or that colleague who just "doesn't get" your views on this issue. It could be someone halfway across the country who heard the biased media account of Amendment 2. Chances are, they'll "get it" after reading *Refuge*. One person at a time, one opened mind at a time — we can help turn the tide of public opinion.

Here is a brief excerpt from *Refuge*. I think you'll agree — it's a first-rate thriller.

> "He will never forget leaving his home forever — the screech of his tires on the driveway, or, backing out, the crunch of the green car's bumper into his own, or the white-shirted figure of the Social Services agent racing back across his lawn from the front door.
>
> It all happens at a strange speed, as though underwater. By the time he returns to himself, the noontime traffic of Baseline Drive is weaving wildly past his windshield. He will remember feeling suddenly overwhelmed by a craving for shelter, up there among the green forests filling his horizon.
>
> The mountains.
>
> And he will remember the sirens. He will never forget the sound of them, howling across a thousand rooftops, just for him."

Now to the sobering world of what's happening in real-life. In short, it seems like the pro-homosexual arsenal is about to be launched against us. As I write this, a new pro-homosexual "hate crimes" bill is working its way through committee in the Colorado legislature. We've faced other such proposals before — in fact, one seems to come up nearly every session. But for sake of review, let me tell you what this harmless-sounding yet oppressive law would actually do to our freedoms.

First it adds "sexual orientation" the list of protected classes. Before this, Colorado law has limited itself to race, color, ancestry, religion and national origin. (The bill's authors conveniently slip the term in under a long "laundry list" which includes sex, age, handicap and disability.) This is a clever way to sneak protected status for homosexuality into the law without even subjecting the matter to a vote.

Second, the bill would mandate that the penalty for crimes motivated by bigotry and bias be more severe than the penalty for the underlying crime." This clearly violated the founding father's principle that government should address actions alone, not opinions or bias. It is the very embodiment of "thought police" — Jefferson's very definition of tyranny. No government should be in the business of punishing thoughts or attitudes, especially since one person's "bias" is another person's conviction. Furthermore, it shouldn't matter what motivates an act of violence; the act itself should be punished for what it inflicted on the victim. Would this bill's sponsors look Ennis Cosby's mother in the face and tell her that her son's murderers committed less of a crime if they did it for money than if they did it out of racial prejudice? Of course not. Murder is murder no matter the motive.

Third, and perhaps the worst: the bill states that any organization found to have "incited" such a "hate crime" is liable to the victim and his or her family for damages. Now, it doesn't take a legal genius to see that if this bill passes homosexual activists will chomp at the bit to sue churches, Colorado for Family Values — or any other conservative group in their sights — for any and every incident committed against them. We already saw a rash of fraudulent and inflated "hate crimes" statistics following passage of Amendment 2, even "hate crimes" orchestrated by homosexual activists against themselves. Under this bill, any of a thousand reported incidents could provoke legal action against anyone who spoke out against the homosexual lobby. Our already overburdened courts will be flooded with new and reopened cases.

Remember, no one is advocating that crimes against homosexuals should go unpunished. We are all protected by law, and criminals should be prosecuted equally — regardless of their motive. I simply feel that the government should stay out of the business of policing citizens' inner thoughts. As of this writing, the bill has been referred to the Senate appropriations committee. Please contact your state Senator to inform him or her of your feelings.

It also appears that the statewide "gay rights" law which Rabbi Stephen Foster called for days after the decision against Amendment 2 will soon be introduced. You may remember Rabbi Foster as the chief pro-homosexual spokesman during the campaign, as well as being a figure on the state's Civil Rights Commission. You may also remember Rabbi Foster as the person who stood before a cheering pro-homosexual crowd at the State Capitol following the Supreme Court ruling and shouted, "This is no time to extend the hand of friendship! This is a war, and we have not yet won."

Friends, remember those words. We *are* in a war, if only because Rabbi Foster and other extremists like him insists on waging one. (It is so ironic that these same people claim to stand for civility and tolerance when the mood suits them and the cameras are on. If we had ever released a statement like that one, can you imagine the uproar?)

As his next offensive in his "war," Foster and the rest of the Civil Rights Commission have called for inclusion of so-called "sexual orientation" into state civil rights statutes. Such a change would classify as a criminal any business or property owner who made hiring or rental decisions based on Judeo-Christian convictions. This law could result in you being ordered *by your government* to open your business to . . . open your home to . . . send your child off to be cared for by . . . someone whose lifestyle you find morally repulsive. You'd face criminal penalties if you dared to object! It would also make homosexuality the first legally-protected, state-sanctioned sexual aberration in state history.

Other brush fires seem to be bursting out across our state and nation . . . in the U.S. Congress, even local city councils. We are working hard to monitor those developments and help offer a compassionate but firm response to the forced affirmation of this lifestyle.

Let me state once again: this issue has never been against people. Colorado voted to prevent government from forcing the indoctrination of homosexual conduct upon the people of this state. Someone conducting him or herself as a homosexual is still protected by the same laws protecting everyone else — and Amendment 2 wouldn't have changed that one iota. Our position is still that aberrant sexual behavior should not provide anyone with any special civil rights status.

Even though Amendment 2 was struck down by an activist court, we still hold the right to free speech and freedom of association. Those are some of the most treasured parts of being an American. Promoters of the homosexual agenda would take that right away from all of us. We must all recognize how disastrously such a defeat would impact our entire culture. Our efforts to expose these dangers are not prompted by hatred, but a civil and genuine concern for traditional values, and a desire to preserve liberty.

In this time of continued attacks, let us not tire of doing what is right. Let us stand for what we know to be just. Will you do that with me?

Sincerely,

Will Perkins

Will Perkins

P.S. Please make sure you get a copy of *Refuge* to read. This powerful novel will renew your determination to protect our freedoms. And please contact your State Senator with your feelings on the thought-police "hate crimes" law, Senate Bill 100.